Clarke Centre [illegible]
Dec 10

Send F. J. pamphlet
to S. J. May
" L. Ford

Samuel May Jr
Care of R. F. Wallcut
Boston
Mass.

Ms. B.1.6 v.8, p.93

Sauk Centre Dec. 10the 1861

Friend May

In consequence of bad luck — I am in a tight place — in the fall I succeded in having some money & baught some stock ofom Wagon cow sheep &c — so that I could be at work on my farm to some advantage Since that time I have lost 7 of my best sheep by wolves (do not think I shall lose any more) and about the 20th of Nov. I had 16 tons of Hay burned, the Hay had been ploughed arround, & burned arround also, but people had been carting Hay & straw by the place, & I presume there was some of it cattered over the ploughing It caught from a Prairie fire when I was in the woods at work, & there was no one living near it

In getting my stock & other things absolutely nessary for the winter I spent the last dollar of money I had — but supposed I might have 3 or 4 tons of Hay to sell — which would have secured me money to pay my tax, & to buy some salt for my cattle & sheep, which is absolutely important in this country, Now — I am about 12 tons of Hay short, & without a cent of salt or tax money, or a cent to pay

for any publication whatever
neither do I Know where I can get
a dollar untill I sell the wool
from my sheep next summer
(and wool growing is what I now
expect to procure my living by in
the future) So I feel pushed to call
upon, & beg, of a few of my friends
in the East, to send me five or 10 dollars
apiece in order that I may get
through the winter & spring Now if
it is possible for you to send me ten
dollars, or five Even, you will do
me a great favor I & I will
return the same amount with
interest & good pay for all the
trouble you may be to, as soon
as I can If I did not need the favor
very, very much, I would not ask it,
I can get along with thirty five or
forty dollars, & if you Know of any
one Else that would that would put in
five or ten dollars with you & send
me please do me the favor to forward
the same   I did intend to go East
this winter, but I ~~have~~ ~~was~~ I cannot
go now before another winter
but I shall go as soon as I have
means to go with, but whether I shall
Ever go East to live, depends upon
circumstances, We have one foot
of snow — my health is good — Please
Direct to Sauk Centre Stearns co. Minn.
God save our Country
yours truly L Ford